

U.S. Appln. No. 10/817,663
Reply to Office Action dated March 21, 2006

PATENT
450100-05007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS.

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-10 are independent. Claims 1-10 are hereby amended. Claims 11-15 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of any subject matter. No new matter has been introduced. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Claims 2 and 7, which were objected to for minor informalities, have been amended thereby obviating the objection.

Claims 5 and 10, which were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101, have been amended thereby obviating the rejection.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,860,217 to Sasaki, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Sasaki") in view of "Perspective Filters in FCP" by Ken Stone (hereinafter, merely "Stone").

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Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"A special effect device...comprising:

address signal generating means for generating a readout address signal for said picture signals stored in said frame buffer so that, by flipping a picture, ruptured with an optional position of a picture, corresponding to said picture signals stored in said frame buffer, as a rupture point, for extending along a curve formed by an arc of a circle of a radius of an optional size, defined on a second virtual plane perpendicular to a first virtual plane to which belongs said picture, and by moving, after said picture corresponding to said rupture point has reached a height of the diameter of the circle on said second virtual plane, said picture corresponding to said rupture point along a plane parallel to said first virtual plane, such a special effect will be obtained in which the picture on said first virtual plane is peeled off sequentially radially along said arc about said optional position as center so as to disappear to outside a display area,

wherein said address signal generating means converts a rectangular coordinate system of said picture signals to a polar coordinate system." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, Sasaki relates to a method and system for effecting a transformation of a video image from an original image on a TV screen applicable, for example, to a system for producing a special visual effect on a television screen in a television broadcasting station.

As understood by Applicant, Stone relates to the 'Perspective' Effects bin which contains five different filters in FCP's Effect Browser.

Applicant respectfully submits that Sasaki and Stone, taken either alone, or in combination, do not disclose the above features of claim 1. Specifically, Sasaki and Stone do not disclose a special effect device comprising address signal generating means for generating a readout address signal for said picture signals stored in said frame buffer so that, by flipping a picture, ruptured with an optional position of a picture, corresponding to said picture signals

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stored in said frame buffer, as a rupture point, for extending along a curve formed by an arc of a circle of a radius of an optional size, defined on a second virtual plane perpendicular to a first virtual plane to which belongs said picture, and by moving, after said picture corresponding to said rupture point has reached a height of the diameter of the circle on said second virtual plane, said picture corresponding to said rupture point along a plane parallel to said first virtual plane,
such a special effect will be obtained in which the picture on said first virtual plane is peeled off sequentially radially along said arc about said optional position as center so as to disappear to outside a display area wherein said address signal generating means converts a rectangular coordinate system of said picture signals to a polar coordinate system, as recited in independent claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 3-6 and 8-10 are also believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the

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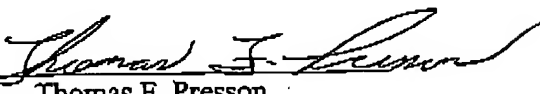
Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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